IEPA Log No.: **C-0071-16**
CoE appl. #: **CEMVR-OD-P-2016-0194**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **March 7, 2017**
Public Notice Ending Date: **March 28, 2017**

Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
Amendments of 1972

Section 401 Water Quality Certification to Discharge into Waters of the State

Public Notice/Fact Sheet Issued By:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Permit Section
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Post Office Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
217/782-3362

Name and Address of Discharger: Kendall County Highway Department – 6780 Rte. 47, Yorkville, IL 60560

Discharge Location: Near Plattville in 8 of Township 35N, Range 8E of the 3rd P.M. in Kendall County.

Name of Receiving Water: West Aux Sable Creek Tributary B

Project Description: Proposed replacement of box culvert under Van Dyke Road and the realignment of approximately 1000 feet of West Aux Sable Creek Tributary B.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has received an application for a Section 401 water quality certification to discharge into the waters of the state associated with a Section 404 permit application received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Public Notice period will begin and end on the dates indicated in the heading of this Public Notice. The last day comments will be received will be on the Public Notice period ending date unless a commenter demonstrating the need for additional time requests an extension to this comment period and the request is granted by the IEPA. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the project to the IEPA at the above address. Commenters shall provide their names and addresses along with comments on the certification application. Commenters may include a request for public hearing. The certification and notice number(s) must appear on each comment page.

The attached Fact Sheet provides a description of the project and the antidegradation assessment.

The application, Public Notice/Fact Sheet, comments received, and other documents are available for inspection and may be copied at the IEPA at the address shown above between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday when scheduled by the interested person.

If written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in the certification application, the IEPA may, at its discretion, hold a public hearing. Public notice will be given 30 days before any public hearing. If a Section 401 water quality certification is issued, response to relevant comments will be provided at the time of the certification. For further information, please call Darren Gove at 217/782-3362.

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Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment
For Kendall County Highway Department
IEPA Log No. C-0071-16
COE Log No. CEMVR-OD-P-2016-0194
Contact: Brian Koch 217/558-2012
Public Notice Start Date: March 7, 2017

Kendall County Highway Department ("Applicant") has applied for a 401 Water Quality Certification for impacts associated with increasing the Grove Road elevation profile along 0.62 miles of its length and the reconstruction of the road intersection at Grove Road and Van Dyke Road. The new profile will require the realignment of approximately 985 feet of the West Aux Sable Creek Tributary B, which includes the construction of a new double box culvert to carry the stream under Van Dyke Road. The project, located in unincorporated Kendall County in Section 8, Township 42 North, Range 13 East, is approximately 8.75 miles north-west of the intersection of Interstates 55 and 80, near the town of Plattville, Illinois. The proposed stream realignment and culvert replacement are necessary for the proposed road improvements, which includes increasing the road's elevation profile a maximum of approximately 4 feet to prevent flood waters from overtopping the road. The raised profile will necessitate larger road embankments and will require that the existing road side stream be moved 25 feet eastward from its existing course. The impacted stream's overall length will be shortened by 67 feet as a result of the project. Thirty-four feet of stream bed will be lost to the existing culvert being replaced with a longer/larger culvert and 33 feet will be lost as a result of the realignment itself. The new double box culvert will be larger to accommodate flow and will feature a buried bottom to allow a more natural aquatic habitat to develop. The proposed activities will occur in conjunction with the replacement of the bridge carrying Grove Road over the West Aux Sable Creek, an activity that is already authorized by a Corps of Engineers' Nationwide Permit No. 14.

Information used in this review was obtained from the applicant in a document entitled, "Anti-Degradation Assessment, Van Dyke Road over West Aux Sable Creek Tributary B" dated February 9, 2016.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

West Aux Sable Creek Tributary B is a General Use water body with zero 7Q10 low flow. Given its small watershed size (5.02 square miles), the stream has not been assessed under the Agency's 305(b)/303(d) program. West Aux Sable Creek Tributary B has not been given an integrity rating or been listed as biologically significant in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*, nor is it listed as an enhanced stream in regards to the dissolved oxygen water quality standard. Given that the stream has not been assessed by the Agency, the Applicant contracted Huff and Huff, Inc. to conduct a physical, biological and chemical characterization of the stream segment to be impacted by the proposed activities. The results of the stream survey concluded that water quality standards were being attained and that the stream possesses fair physical habitat and a fair macroinvertebrate community. The fish community was not able to be assessed due to high flow conditions, but the Applicant will be required to conduct a post-construction fish survey in the relocated stream channel as well as a reference site to confirm that the stream mitigation has fully restored the fish community. Pending the results of the post-disturbance fish surveys, additional habit improvements may be required.

Downstream waters potentially impacted by the on-site activities include West Aux Sable Creek (Segment IL_DWE), which is located approximately 0.25 miles downstream of the project location where impacts to Tributary B would occur. West Aux Sable Creek is a General Use water body with zero 7Q10 low flow. The stream has been assessed by the Agency and has been found to be fully supportive of aquatic life use, thus it is not listed as an impaired water in the 2016 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List. West Aux Sable Creek is not listed as a biologically significant stream but has been given a C integrity rating in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*. West Aux Sable Creek is not an enhanced stream in regards to the dissolved oxygen water quality standard.

Identification of Proposed Pollutant Load Increases or Potential Impacts on Uses.

The pollutant load increases that would occur from this project include some possible increases in total suspended solids. These increases, a normal and unavoidable result of stream realignment, may occur in the stream at the point of construction activity and downstream for some distance. Pollutants typically found in roadway runoff are not anticipated to be increased as the project is not adding any additional traffic lanes or causing a shift in vehicular traffic through this route. The project will result in a larger horizontal distance between the roadway and the stream. Once established, native vegetation along this larger buffer area will decrease the pollutant loadings from the roadway compared to existing conditions. The project will also result in the net loss of approximately 67 feet of stream corridor due to the proposed realignment and culvert replacement. The Applicant provided an assessment of the project according to the Illinois Stream Mitigation Methodology where adverse impacts to stream and the proposed mitigation plan were assessed to determine if the existing uses of the stream will be protected. The Applicant determined that the proposed improvements to the stream system, which includes introducing sinuosity, providing a natural bottom culvert to facilitate fish passage and habitat, and constructing a two stage ditch design using native wetland vegetation on the bench, would adequately protect existing uses of the stream and would mitigate for the net loss of 67 feet of stream length.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in suspended solids will be local and temporary. Both temporary and permanent erosion control measures will be implemented to maintain a high quality of storm water runoff from the disturbed areas. The loss of stream habitat will be offset with compensatory stream mitigation.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide improved safety and regional mobility for users of this roadway. Increasing the elevation profile of the road and constructing a new culvert will reduce on-road flooding while addressing transportation safety and flooding issues. According to the Applicant, floodwaters have overtopped Grove road an estimated six times in

the past 25 years resulting in the closure of Grove Road. When closure of this rural two-lane collector occurs it requires adverse travel for residents and farmers along Grove Road and Van Dyke Road. Raising the profile of Grove Road and replacing the culvert under Van Dyke Road will decrease travel times and enhance mobility and safety of drivers.

Assessments of Alternatives for Less Increase in Loading or Minimal Environmental Degradation.

The Applicant has analyzed alternative design concepts to eliminate or reduce impacts to the tributary. Three options were considered for the proposed project.

Option 1- No Build:

- Would not prevent flooding of the road
- Roadway runoff improvements would be unrealized

Option 2- Shift the roadway to the west:

- Land acquisition not feasible
- Will introduce horizontal curves to a once straight road and decrease safety

Option 3 – Raise the profile of Grove Road (Preferred Option):

- Reduced flooding
- Minimizes losses to prime farmland

Conclusion:
The construction of the proposed project will follow conditions set forth by the Agency and USACE. The least intrusive alternative would be to not complete the project. This is not an acceptable alternative given the project will reduce flooding, improve safety, and promote economic activity.

Summary Comments of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Regional Planning Commissions, Zoning Boards or Other Entities

An EcoCAT endangered species consultation submitted on November 10, 2016 to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. No State-listed endangered or threatened species, Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites, dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves, or registered Land and Water Reserves were identified in vicinity of the project location and the consultation was immediately terminated.

Agency Conclusion.

This preliminary assessment was conducted pursuant to the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulation for Antidegradation found at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.105 (antidegradation standard) and was based on the information available to the Agency at the time the draft 401 Water Quality Certification was written. We tentatively find that the proposed activity will result in the attainment of water quality standards; that all technically and economically reasonable measures

to avoid or minimize the extent of the proposed increase in pollutant loading have been incorporated into the proposed activity; and that this activity will provide needed road improvements that include reducing the occurrence of flooding over the road. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.